



STATE OF UTAH
NATURAL RESOURCES
Oil, Gas & Mining

File

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May 31, 1984

Mr. Richard Blubaugh
Regulatory Affairs Manager
Atlas Minerals
P. O. Box 1207
Moab, Utah 84532-1207

RE: Information Regarding the
Cane Creek Mine, ACT/019/007
Farley Project, EXP/017/022
Snow Mine, ACT/015/013
Probe Mine, ACT/015/011

Dear Mr. Blubaugh:

Thank you for meeting with Division staff members Tom Tetting and Sue Linmer on May 16, 1984. The on-site inspection of the Cane Creek Mine satisfied the Division's interest in the adequacy of Atlas' Minerals recent reclamation performance. The earthwork was quite innovative and appeared to be effective. It will be interesting to note how well this approach to regrading of the west facing access road succeeds over time.

The Division has received your May 16, 1984 letter documenting a discussion between you, Mike Price, Tom and Susan which was held after the site visit. It is gratifying to have finally reached an understanding over the requirements for exploration project completion notices. It is typically Division practice and policy that completion notices be filed and accepted by the Division for the previous years work, prior to approving new notices (allowing for exceptions). Your commitment to supply the necessary information by June 7, 1984 is consistent with Division policy. There is no reason to continue delaying our review of Atlas' proposed 1984 exploration activities. A letter will be directed to Mr. Price promptly.

With regard to the final paragraph of your May 16, 1984 letter; it has always been the Division's intention to accomodate and facilitate Atlas' plans for exploration in Utah, provided compliance with the rules and regulations is achieved. Because Atlas has such a large number of projects in the state, the Division has extended an opportunity to Atlas to employ an annually renewable reclamation proposal which outlines specific company reclamation procedures to be followed at a project site. This policy may simply be referenced by the use of general statements in each notice. Atlas has made full use of this method in the past. Previous Division inspections have established Atlas' reclamation achievements in the exploration areas to be first rate. A continuing difficulty, however, has been in keeping track of road building activities, (i.e., distinguishing between previously constructed and newly developed roads) in order to establish reclamation responsibilities. For this

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reason, it is essential that Atlas develop a presentation which delineates these distinctions. The great extent of the Farley project for which Atlas has had to provide "true and correct" copies of maps does not reflect the general level of detail normally requested. However, precise information for all projects is appreciated. The Division shall look forward to Mr. Price's submittal of the new maps with anticipation.

One other field concern remains to be discussed and/or corrected. On May 15, 1984 Tom and Susan had occasion to visit Atlas' Probe and Snow mines in the Green River Area. As you are aware, they have been suspended for two years or more and have not been formally inspected since that time. There were no problems encountered at the Probe Mine and an additional two year suspension period is extended. A potential problem apparently remains at the Snow Mine. The concern involves the sediment in the primary evaporation pond. The Division, after consultation with the State Health Department, suspects that this material may still be radioactive. Should it contain excessive amounts of radium, this material may constitute a public health hazard in-so-much as it is slowly blowing away during the strong spring winds. Please examine the material and either:

1. Leave it should no excessive radio-active levels be found.
2. Remove it to the Moab mill site.
3. Temporarily cover (i.e., stabilize) it.

If you are aware of any other sites where this is occurring, would you please check them? Should these concerns be unfounded, simply let us know after investigating the situation. We would appreciate receiving your written observations as early as possible.

Thank you for the cooperation you have shown during Atlas Minerals difficult period of depressed mining activity. Should you have any questions please feel free to call me or Tom Tetting of the permitting staff.

Sincerely,

Mary M. Boucek

for

D. Wayne Hedberg
Permit Supervisor/
Reclamation Hydrologist

DWH/TNT:jvb
88440-11

cc: John Blake, State Lands
Jim Smith, DOGM
Tom Tetting, DOGM
Sue Linner, DOGM